United Nations DP/FPA/2011/9

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, of the United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Office for Project Services

Distr.: General
6 April 2011

Original: English

Annual session 2011
6 to 17 June 2011, New York
Item 15 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extensions of country programmes in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extension of the country programme for the Republic of Moldova.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extension for the Republic of Moldova, as indicated in the attached table.

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Table 1. One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	Original Programme period	Years proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations Harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Republic of Moldova	2007–2011	2012	The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle for the Republic of Moldova covers 2007-2011. This is the same cycle for the country programmes of the Executive Committee agencies of the United Nations Development Group. In light of the developments that took place during 2009, both within the United Nations and in the country as a whole, it was agreed by the Government and the United Nations to extend the current UNDAF for an additional year, through 2012. The extension of the UNDAF will permit the United Nations system to better assist the country in addressing the impact of the economic crisis and its social consequences. Given the current negotiation of a new agreement with the European Union, it will be important for the UNDAF to be aligned not only with the national cycle (through the national development strategy, 2008-2012) but with this new agreement as well.	In 2009, the Republic of Moldova experienced challenges that brought to the surface major problems in all areas of relevance to United Nations development cooperation. The consequences of the global economic crisis were aggravated by the prolonged process of parliamentary elections, when no constitutional power could be fully established after two consecutive rounds of voting in April and July 2009. As a result of political and parliamentary crises and uncertainty, the Government changed hands, with limited continuity. Two election cycles in 2009 resulted in a prolonged period of limited activities undertaken by the Government. This in turn delayed the implementation of several United Nations programmes in the country.	During 2012, UNFPA will continue to implement the country programme, undertaking activities in the following three programme areas: (a) reproductive health and rights, with a focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and care, improving men's health and women's health, and promoting safer and healthier sexual and reproductive health behaviour among youth; (b) population and development, including support for the development of the national strategy for demographic security, population research, and implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing; and (c) gender equality and equity, with attention given to victims of domestic violence. No structural changes to the country programme are required. The current country programme provides an adequate framework to implement UNFPA projects, given its alignment with government development priorities and the UNDAF.